



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 23, 3 pm

The agenda will include:

- Reports from the rabbi and president about the past year and upcoming challenges.
- The election of certain officers and Va'ad members for terms beginning on July 1.
- A discussion and vote on the budget for next year and related proposals, including the special assessment.
- The recognition of some of our members for their work as CSZ volunteers.

## May Mahj Madness

Saturday May 15, 7:30 to midnight

Join us for an evening of fun and frolic as we "wash the tiles" and "do the Charleston."

Don't know your bam from your crack? Yes, you too, can learn to play the Jewish version of Mah Jongg!

Or are you already a maven of the 2004 card? Then play with others that are already Mah Jongg experts.

Care less about this crazy game or think we are all mashuganeh??? Just come and socialize with your CSZ cronies.

Great food and drink served. Kosher, of course!

What is the Gay Jewish Mah Jongg league saying about the game?

"More gossip than the High Holidays!" says Yetta.

"A perfect chance to get dolled up and find a husband," raves Shirley.

"I am so happy that Malka gets out of the house, but I have always been curious what goes on at these games," questions Morris.

Due to the popularity of this game (and local fire ordinances), please RSVP to [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org) for this evening. \$25 for members, \$36 for nonmembers.

## Kadimah Innovations Enter the Classroom

On March 20, the first pilot project of the Experiment in Congregational Education (ECE) here at CSZ, the Kitah Hey Family Shabbaton, came to fruition. In an extraordinary day of learning built on three months of planning and a month of in-class preparation, the students of Kitah Hey (our 5th/6th grade class), studied Torah, gave a drash and shared an afternoon of learning with their parents. Created by CSZ members Andrew Ramer, Anna Lichtenberg, Joss Eldredge and Jeff Piade, under the leadership of Debbie Levy and in collaboration with classroom teacher Micah Morris, this day gave students an intensive Shabbat learning experience which linked them with

the larger CSZ community. Well prepared by their classroom learning, students participated in CSZ's regular Shabbat morning Torah study, shared drashot on the Torah portion during Kadimah-led services and continued to explore the day's Torah portions and theme of sacred space together with their parents well past midday. This learning experiment is the first of two that will enter classrooms this spring and test new ideas about how to make Jewish education happen here at CSZ.

Following a two-and-a-half year visioning process, facilitated by the Experiment in Congregational Education, a national Jewish education think-tank linked to the

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## Bisexual Panel

May 1, 6:30 pm

by Jim Frazin and Jessica Israel

It's worse than George Bush could ever imagine. Not only are gays and lesbians getting married, same-sex couples who are neither gay nor lesbian are tying the knot at San Francisco City Hall. In spite of how monumental Gavin Newsom's decision to legally sanction same-sex marriage has been for the entire queer community, all the media hype has narrowed the focus in a predictable way that has rendered bisexual and transgendered people invisible.

Being bisexual is central to many people's identities. We are lucky to have orientations that allow for movement beyond the dualities which govern too much of our world. Being open to attraction without relying on gender opens us up to a whole myriad of possibilities with implications far beyond the dating arena. In many ways, both bi and transsexuals are pivotal in breaking down some of

society's most tightly held dualistic ways of thinking. And through that process of deconstructing those preconceived "truths," we become potential sources of social change and spiritual growth.

Our experience has often been that both straight and queer people prefer for bisexuals to keep quiet about our orientations; if we're in a same-sex relationship we'll be seen as queer, if it's an opposite-gendered partner we'll fit nicely into the compulsory heterosexuality model, or worse, be seen as "selling out for heterosexual privilege." Too often, our identities have been reduced to the gender of who we are dating. When we're with opposite sex partners, parents rejoice thinking we're "over it." When we date people of the same sex, we find new acceptance in the queer community, especially around those individuals who are adamant in their belief that there is no such thing as bisexuality. Well-meaning straight folks question us as to why if we have a

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## From the Rabbi's Study Priests and Prophets

One of the most important Hebrew essayists of the 20th century was Ahad Ha'am. In *Priest and Prophet*, he discusses the contrast between the person of action and the person of vision. The visionary and the implementer serve complementary functions, he points out. Without Aaron, Moses' mission would have failed. Aaron helped to cast Moses' ideals and dreams into a practical form. The tradition of Aaron stands for translating morality into reality. Each of us contains a little of the visionary and a little of the practical. We must have high goals to inspire us, but we must be prepared to embody them in practical means. Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace, pursuing integrity and bringing humanity closer to the principles of the Torah. (Avot 1:12)

William Countryman defines our priesthood, the priesthood of all people in this way. "By 'priest' I mean any person who lives in the dangerous, exhilarating, life-giving borderlands of human existence where the everyday experiences of life opens up to reveal glimpses of the HOLY – and not only lives there but comes to the aid of others who are living there..." (*Living on the Border of the Holy: Renewing the Priesthood of All*, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Morehouse Publishing, 1999, p. xi.)

At Sha'ar Zahav, we contribute to the life of our community as a nation of priests. Each of us brings a unique experience of the holy to this community and in the process of sharing our work, our lives, our experiences of God and our prophetic voice, we begin to live in our priesthood.

Our priesthood has no formal seminary education, no ordination ceremony, no vestments or other outward signs of office or title. We have instead the discernment that comes from listening to each other, from calling forth each other's gifts, from wrestling with Torah week after week. We have all of our life experiences and all of the education we've gained from the many fields in which we've worked. Sharing the priesthood, the work of the synagogue, we are a community of people developing our own prophetic voice. It's important work



and we are in uncharted territory with an open future.

It can be slow work. It takes a lot of time. It means that we have to spend more time listening to each other and more time listening to God. And

sometimes we have to take time out to care for each other and for ourselves, to take time out to reflect about what we're doing and how we're doing it.

It is a radical idea in this culture – where being too busy is something of a status symbol – to think of prayer, reflection and rest as part of our way of life. Maybe we can think of it as a way to become less scattered, less self-centered and more aware of the presence of the Holy in our midst; the Holy in our midst calling us to believe that we are loved and luring us into loving relationships with others.

I hope you'll join me, Friday night, June 11, as we install our leaders and say *l'hitr'aot*, see you soon, to two of our much beloved members, each in their own right one of our leaders, Joe Hample and Rachel Timoner, as they leave us to pursue their higher education at the Hebrew Union College campus in Jerusalem. We will miss you terribly, we will remember your offerings and gifts, the many ways you blessed us and sustained us and enabled us on our Jewish journey.

This month of May includes the festival Shavuot, which began on 6 Sivan and corresponds to May 25. Shavuot celebrates Revelation, our potential to know and understand how to make our lives a blessing. When God gave us the Torah at Mount

Sinai, tradition teaches that we were open and able to receive its message. May we open ourselves now to its ancient call and feel ourselves renewed. May our energies for service, for acts of love and kindness, justice and peace be nourished and sustained by one another, now and always.

Blessings,

Camille Shira

## A Heartfelt Thank You

Melanie Kushnir has enriched our community with her extraordinary contributions over the last five years. It is with a heavy heart that we bid her farewell, as she graduates with honors from San Francisco State University with a Masters Degree in Social Work. Melanie will pursue her social work career with a stint in London, where she will continue her work of tikkun olam, one person at a time.

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## The Jewish Gaily Forward

May 2004  
Volume 27, Issue 10

The *Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

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**Serving the community  
for over 15 years**

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Melanie began her tenure at CSZ in 1998-99 as the administrative and rabbi's assistant, helping the congregation navigate challenging times. As my assistant, Melanie helped me find my bearings in the community. As we have grown as a community, Melanie has supported CSZ in a variety of ways – most recently as program director. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with her.

Sometimes the role of supervisor and rabbi can blur, and from the very beginning, Melanie has called upon me as her rabbi. I've escorted her through many lifecycle events and look forward to more simcha than sorrow in her years ahead.

For her dedication and years of service, for the ways in which she has empowered us to be teachers, leaders, party planners, activists and agents for change, for all her good work, please join us for a special Shabbat service in May as we honor our beloved friend and bid her a fond farewell.

*Rabbi Angel*

### President's Column

## What about our members who didn't get married?

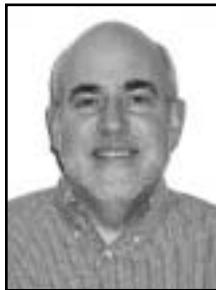
*By Arthur Slepian.*

Sometime this July, many of the people I have worked with over the years will gather for a few minutes to honor the occasion of my having worked at my company for 20 years. At this event, my accomplishments over the years will be noted, some humorous moments will be recounted, the CEO will say a few kind words and there will be some cake. I will feel recognized and acknowledged.

I know this will happen because it is part of my company's tradition. I have participated in many gatherings like this for colleagues who have reached similar milestones. In our company newsletter, we take note of employee anniversaries in five year increments; we make a big deal about ten years and a bigger deal about 20 and 25. We know that people have a choice about where they work, and that the company is made stronger by people whose commitment and contribution extends over many years.

I think there is something that we at Sha'ar Zahav can learn from this practice. We typically let our members' CSZ anniversaries slip by in silence. That person sitting next to you at services might be in their 18th year of CSZ membership, supporting our community in a variety of ways during that time. Yet we have no tradition of honoring how important that is and of saying "thank you."

This issue can be seen as part of a larger void, both at CSZ and in our Jewish tradition. For once one has had a bar or bat mitzvah, the next lifecycle that one can count on being noted, based on one's life as an individual is one's funeral. All of the other wonderful possible lifecycles in between: aufrufs, kiddushin, baby namings, wedding anniversaries, children's b'nei mitzvah, depend on our relationships with others. But what about those who choose not to marry or become parents? Is there no event in their adult



lives worthy of a chorus of b'Siman Tov u'v Mazel Tov? Is there no milestone worthy of our gathering around them for a priestly benediction? On those occasions when our community gathers together around the bimah, must these members always be on the outside looking in?

This appears as a gap in our tradition, and it seems right and appropriate that LGBT congregations should lead the way in its repair. We should ask whether our congregation needs to create some new lifecycle observances, ones that will enable us to recognize and celebrate each others lives with respect for the diversity of the choices that we make in our personal and family relationships, and that will enable us to honor each other as individuals. Even as we bask in the joy of the groundbreaking weddings of so many of our members during the past few months, we need to consider how what we choose to celebrate helps to define us as a community and how it influences the strength of the connection that members feel with the congregation.

I am going to ask the Va'ad to support the creation of a task force to consider the question of the need for some new lifecycle celebrations at CSZ. I think the question of how we honor members of long standing would be a good place to begin. I will propose that members of our Ritual and Keshet committees lead this task force since those committees will need to be the ones most involved in bringing any new traditions to life at CSZ. I know that Rabbi Angel will lend her wisdom and guidance to this effort. Lastly, I ask each of you to join in the conversation, both with each other and by sending any thoughts you may have to [president@shaarzahav.org](mailto:president@shaarzahav.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

## An Introduction to the Kabbalistic Tree of Life

**Led by Andrew Ramer**

**Wednesday, June 2, 7 pm**

The Tree of Life has long been a metaphor for the Torah, but in Jewish mysticism this image developed into a map for how a non-physical God could create a physical universe. In this class we will study the history of the Tree and learn about the ten spheres, *sephirot*, which represent the unfolding aspects of God's creative power. Then we will learn a Kabbalistic meditation that links the Tree and its energies to our bodies and our lives. This meditation will give us access to our inner wisdom and help us establish concrete goals in our lives and as participants in the work of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). This class is free for CSZ members, \$18 for nonmembers. To RSVP, please contact Melanie Kushnir ([mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org) or 415/861-6932 x305) no later than Wednesday, May 26.

## Jews and the News

**Led by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Dr. Alan Karras**

**Wednesday, May 12, 7 pm**

We will be exploring the interplay between Jewish ethical teaching and current events. International current events will be the primary focus, although local news events will be discussed as well. We will discuss Jewish teachings on war, and how that can lead us to evaluate this contemporary problem. There is no charge for CSZ members, \$36 for nonmembers. If you would like to attend, please contact Melanie (x305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).

## Congregants with Kids

Earlier this year, the Rainbow Fund asked several congregants to interview other CSZ members in the hope that their responses would give us concrete examples of why they value Sha'ar Zahav. Joanne Kapsack interviewed members with children. Here's what they told her:

**Geoff Benjamin** and his partner **Craig Persiko** have recently adopted Serafina. Geoff told Joanne, "We're new parents and haven't had a great deal of experience raising a child at CSZ. I do feel the sense of possibilities in our community. We certainly feel very comfortable raising a child in a gay family at Sha'ar Zahav. We don't feel alone. We recognize how truly supportive our community is."

**Debby Levy** has raised her two sons Josh (age 14) and Yonah (age 11) as a single mom. "I love the Kadimah program and I'm very involved in the Experiment in Congregational Education (ECE). The ECE process has really given us a chance to reimagine our religious school. CSZ is important to me because here I have a Jewish community, a connection to Israel and to Judaism in the company of other people with progressive ideas. I get a lot of support as a single mother. Before I joined CSZ I visited other synagogues but felt that I was treated differently as a single mom. At CSZ we have all sorts of families; there is no normal. From the moment I entered the temple, I was treated as a whole being; no one tried to fit me into a box. My kids are getting a wonderful sense of all the different ways to be a family. Josh is now a teaching assistant in Kadimah; every Saturday he has seven kids who adore him. What a great experience for a 14 year old."

**Stephanie Godt** and **Ellen Novodgrotsky** bring their two children Avidan (4) and Chava (2) to Sha'ar Zahav often. Stephanie told Joanne, "I really enjoyed the family retreat. I am happy with CSZ's location, the focus on queer issues and the fact that a child with two moms or two dads feels comfortable here. While I am glad that we have childcare, I wish that we could have a monthly service where the kids could feel free to run around a bit. I am glad that we have kids services from time to time."

**Drew Parker Rose** is one of 5-year-old Elias's four parents, all of who are active participants in Elias's life. (One of Elias's moms, Carol Dawson is also a member.) "I take Elias to Tot Shabbat. We've been to the family dinners and they are really fun for the kids and the adults – a nice little reunion of families. The temple is a good way for Elias to get grounded into the Jewish community. I am really glad that he can grow up in a such diverse, interesting and enriching community. CSZ is very supportive of families."

**Ilana Bernstein**, and her partner, **Diane Desmond**, have three children, Malik (6), Anna (8) and Desmond (11). "I really appreciate the babysitting on Friday nights because it allows us to attend services. Kadimah is getting better and better. I love that the kids are involved in services. Sha'ar Zahav is such a comfortable community it gives me a place to schmooze on Saturdays."

## Rainbow Fund Thank You

Thanks to all CSZ friends and members who participated in Rainbow Fund 5764, our congregation's new annual appeal. We will report next month on the financial success of the campaign. This month we would like to thank the many members who donated their time and energy to make the Rainbow Fund a success. Their work and your contributions are helping to sustain our kehillah kedushah.

Conducting this campaign required the hearts and minds of numerous congregants.

Thank you all for your efforts.

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# Pinat Yeladim U'nishpachah

## Children and Family Corner



### Baby Chavurah

**Sunday, May 9, 10 - noon**

Bring those under-tuos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, play-time and socializing. This month we meet at the synagogue. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets the second Sunday of each month.

### Family Kabbalat Shabbat

**Friday, May 14, 6:15 pm**

Meet, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then stay for Friday night services. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck; please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. Be a part of the *ruach* (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

### Tot Shabbat

**Date TBA, 10:30 - 11:30 am**

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your 2- to 5-year-olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and Jewish family fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome.

### Kadimah End-of-Year Celebration

**Saturday, May 22, 11:30 - 1 pm**

This year Kadimah will conclude a dynamic year of learning and experimenting with a different kind of celebration. In lieu of our traditional picnic, Kadimah will be celebrating the close of our month-long theme-based educational pilot focused on Israel (see Kadimah Innovations article) with an Israel Fair. Our students will share their projects in a celebratory atmosphere including food, music and dancing. Please join us in appreciating the accomplishments of our students and the hard work of our talented staff. This event is open to the whole community.

### Kadimah Class

#### Spotlight:

#### Kitah Vav/Zayin

On a Saturday morning in January, you would have found the students of Kitah Vav/Zayin at teacher Phyllis Mintzer's kitchen table hard at work creating clay characters from Megillat Esther, the Purim story. This winter, over the course of six weeks, this group of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, under the direction of Kadimah graduates and high school students Shmulik Fishman and Alapai Kim-Michels, worked to create a claymation short film re-interpreting the Purim story, inspired by Tsipora Prochovnick's suggestion that her class do some feminist commentary on the Purim story. The students read and discussed the traditional text as a group. They were then split into mixed-age *chevruta* (study pairings) to re-write one section of the story. The story pieces came together and were collaboratively edited into a single script. The text reflected not only a feminist sensibility but also the queer consciousness and commitment to LGBT activism with which these young people have been raised. It is a very different kind of midrash on the Purim story.

Then came the technical work. Each student created one or more of the central characters who were digitally filmed and edited into a claymation film. Students added voiceovers and Shmulik completed the film editing. The film premiered at this year's Purim celebration and will have a second screening at CSZ on May 20 (see CSZ Film Events).

What did they learn through this project? These pre- and post-b'nei mitzvah students focused on skills and content central to the b'nei mitzvah curriculum. They studied and analyzed text and, in the tradition of our people, provided commentary. Their commentary demonstrated their own exploration of issues that are important to their individual Jewish sensibilities. They addressed central issues of Jewish identity and our commitment to *tikkun olam* (repair of the world). They worked in community

with one another to give their ideas a voice, to create their own Jewish expression, to speak to the larger Jewish community about their ideas. This is what Kadimah is teaching our children. Mazal tov to the students of Vav/Zayin and kol ha'kavod to their teachers.

### Purim Thanks

Thank you to Shelli Rawlings-Fine and Larry Wong for co-creating this year's Purim festivities. And a big thank you to the following community merchants who made donations to the 5764 Great Purim Raffle.

Osento  
Bangkok 16-Thai Cuisine  
CSZ Gift Shop  
Hot Cookie  
Truly Mediterranean  
Paxton Gate  
Idol Vintage  
Sparky's 24-Hour Diner

**The last day of Kadimah is May 22.**

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education,  
(415/861-6932 x302 or  
educator@shaarzahav.org)  
for more information about  
any of these programs or to RSVP.

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Reform movement and funded by the Bureau of Jewish Education and other local funders, Kadimah is moving forward with educational innovations which will take advantage of our small size and rich resources to create a more dynamic educational experience for our kids and new possibilities in Jewish education for the whole community.

Kadimah's second pilot enters the classroom on May 1. It is a four-week, theme-based and project-based learning experiment focused on Israel. Also created by a team of lay people and educators, this program focused on having the entire school engage in project-based learning around a unifying theme. In this instance the theme is "Israel: the Land." Students will be organized into four mixed-age groups, all of which will study at the synagogue. Each class will complete a project focusing on a different aspect of the land, located in a different locality in Israel. Working ideas are agriculture, desert life, water resources and diversity linked respectively to Joffa, Beersheva, Tel Dan/Hula Valley and Acco. At the conclusion of the four-week period, the school will hold a fair in which students, parents and the community are invited to experience the students' work and celebrate with food, music and dancing. This pilot tests the foundations of a model which Kadimah will implement in the coming academic year.

Beginning in September 2004, Kadimah will move to a theme-based and project-based curriculum for its Shabbat program. Students will engage in three 10-week projects a year, working in four classroom constellations (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8), all of which will be housed in the synagogue building. Each project unit will be organized around one of six unifying themes operating on a two-year cycle: Sacred Time and Space, Jewish Journeys, People of the Book, Holiness, Voices of Israel/Jewish Expression and Tzedek (Justice). Within these themes, students will cover content on Torah/Text, Jewish Year Lifecycle, Israel, History, Diversity and Values. Over the course of a student's Kadimah experience, he/she will not only know something about each content area, but will have explored six big Jewish ideas through a series of dynamic learning experiences. At the end of each 10-week unit, Kadimah will have a celebration of learning, sharing student projects with each other and with the community.

A key feature of this learning model is community involvement. Both pilot projects have brought adults, parents and non-parents into learning opportunities with each other and teaching and learning opportunities with our kids. As this project goes forward, we will continue to explore different models of engaging adult community members in learning. Adults might make a 10-week com-

mitment to one class or work over a few months with a design team to develop educational events or share their professional talents relating to a radio or music or architecture or be a guest star and share their personal experiences with a group of students. In the coming year there will be many opportunities to learn from each other and celebrate Jewish learning as a whole community. If you are interested in being a part of this grand adventure, please contact Sue Bojdak (educator@shaarzahav.org or 415/861-6932 x302).

## **The Keys to Effective Job Transition**

**Thursday, May 6, 7 - 9 pm at CSZ**

Out of work or underemployed? Interested in making a change in your professional life but don't know where to start. Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) is coming to help! This interactive workshop, presented by Rebecca Bassin of JVS, will teach participants to understand and communicate their strongest skills and to become an excellent networker. This is one in a series of employment workshops JVS is offering in the community as a part of JEN, the Jewish Employment Network. JEN is a program offering networking and educational opportunities to help members of the Jewish community meet their employment goals. Other upcoming JEN workshops are:

Changing Careers: Real Stories, Real Strategies  
Thursday, May 19, 6:45 - 9 pm at Temple Emanu-El

Returning to the Workforce  
Tuesday, June 22, 10 am - noon at Congregation Sherith Israel

For more information, contact Rebecca Bassin (rbassin@jvs.org or 415/782-6223 or go to <http://www.jvs.org/JEN/htm>).

## **CSZ Film Events**

***Let's Get Real*: A powerful new documentary about name-calling and bullying**

From the makers of *It's Elementary* and *That's a Family!*, ***Let's Get Real*** takes a fresh and revealing look at name-calling and bullying from the point of view of young people who speak candidly about this national epidemic. This extraordinary new film will open your eyes and open up dialogue about what's happening to community in our schools.

**Family Program for families with children  
in the 6th - 9th grade, Saturday, May 8, 5 - 7 pm**

This program will include a film viewing and separate and combined parent and child discussion opportunities, plus a potluck meal and Havdalah. Please RSVP by May 5 to Sue Bojdak (415/861-6932 x302 or educator@shaarzahav.org).

**Community Viewing including  
*A Purim Midrash: A Claymation Short*  
with film producer and CSZ member Helen Cohen  
Thursday, May 20, 7 - 8:30 pm**

This viewing is open to the whole community. It will include a question and answer period and an opportunity to buy your own copy of *A Purim Midrash*.



## Rabbi Alexander to Deliver Drash

Please join us for a very special Shabbat service on May 14 when we will be joined by Rabbi Ted Alexander, who will honor us by delivering the drash. Rabbi Alexander is the rabbi at Congregation B'nai Emunah, where he has served as their beloved spiritual leader since 1968. Rabbi Alexander's commitment to egalitarianism and social activism led B'nai Emunah to be one of the first gay-friendly synagogues in San Francisco, opening their doors to CSZ and hosting some of our earliest board meetings. We are pleased to welcome him to our shul and to celebrate his lifetime of service to the Jewish community.

## Talmud for Busy People

**Friday, May 21, noon - 1 pm**

**\* off-site in the Flood Building**

**870 Market Street at Powell Room 838**

Have you always been interested in exploring the 'Oral Torah,' but found that because of work and personal commitments, you just don't have the time? Well not to fear! We are bringing the Talmud to you! Join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel for lunch (bring your own, we'll provide beverages and snacks) and dialogue from noon - 1 pm at the downtown office of Tony Harris. This exciting monthly opportunity provides an introduction to the study of Talmud from a liberal perspective. We explore fascinating passages that deal with defining the rights of the individual, specifically focusing on the modern day ethical questions that face us as Jews. These sessions are open to Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests. All are welcome. If you have any questions, or to RSVP, please contact Melanie. This will be the last session before we break for summer!

## Potluck Shabbat

### Dinner

**Friday, May 7, 6:30 pm**

Bring your favorite vegetarian dish - salads, main courses, sides and desserts - for sharing at the Shabbat table, as our LGBTQ community gathers to celebrate the beginning of Shabbat. We are seeking ways to build connections among members of the congregation, especially prospective and newer members together with longer-time members to enjoy each others' company and to become better acquainted.

## Tallitot Sale

Have you been considering that stunning fashion statement at shul? What about a silk rainbow tallit from the Jacqueline Berg collection? It, along with the entire inventory of tallitot in Sha'ar Zahav's gift shop, is now 25% off.

Sha'ar Zahav's gift shop offers a broad selection of tallitot. Whether it is the traditional black and white or the avant-

garde silk rainbow, we offer you an opportunity to make a halakhically-sanctioned purchase. Moreover, if you take advantage of our sale, which ends with the new fiscal year, you will be supporting our synagogue - a genuine mitzvah.

While you are checking out our sale items, you will also notice a broad array of Judaica. We have numerous kippot, mezuzot, kiddish cups, candlesticks and a stimulating array of reading material. Of the latter, the Reform and Conservative Torah commentaries have sparked much interest.

If you are thinking of celebrating Shabbat out of town, consider our candlesticks for the traveler. Small and easy to pack, they are ideal for the journeyer. You may also want to pick up a box of Shabbat candles.

The gift shop is open from 7:30 to 8:10 pm on the first Friday of the month. On other Fridays, we are open from 6:45 to 7:25 pm. Also, the gift shop will be open an hour before the Congregational meeting on May 23.

## Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille Shira Angel*

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"choice" we would choose the hard road of being with someone of the same gender. Who has ever felt much of a "choice" about who were attracted to or with whom we fell in love?

It appears, in the way our society is set up today, that bisexuality is a "problem." But then Jews have been labeled a problem in certain societies as have homosexuals and lesbians (when they were visible). And while no one within CSZ is trying to eliminate the problem (i.e., bisexuals), we are not talking about it either. In the Saturday morning Siddur we say the *Asher Yatzar*: "For our bodies, in which we give thanks for the spark of life: ...if but one element of this wondrous structure were to fail in its tasks, we could not stand before You and give thanks for Your sustenance." We believe that bisexuals (as well as gays, lesbians, heterosexuals and transpeople) are essential "element(s) of this wondrous structure." Our absence or failure to create symbiosis will bring down the ecology of God's sustenance. We are also admonished in the *Elohai Neshama*: For our souls, to be who we are, for if we do not, we will "never exist through any other medium...the world will not have it."

Fortunately, there will soon be an opportunity for all the members of CSZ and friends to discuss these issues. On May 1 at 6:30 pm, the Social Action Committee will host a Havdalah service and panel discussion about bisexuality. The more far ranging the dialogue is, the more beneficial it is to everyone. So, please, whatever your orientation, views, thoughts or opinions, join us for this important event.

## Jewish Papercuts

Led by Alan Foss

**Mondays, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 7 pm**

As a child did you enjoy making those wonderful paper snowflakes? Were you one of those people who made great paper doll chains? If you answered yes to either one of these questions, you need to enroll in the upcoming CSZ art class! Come learn about the wonderful Jewish folk art of papercuts and leave with your own magnificent creations. The course will run for four consecutive Mondays and cover the history of Jewish papercuts and techniques and ideas for developing your own unique designs.

As a culminating project, the class will present a student art show at CSZ. Join CSZ member Alan Foss for this four-week class on Jewish art. Cost of class is \$18 for members + \$10 material fee, \$36 for non-members + \$10 material fee. To register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (mkushnir@shaarzahav.org or 415/861-6932 x305) no later than Wednesday, April 28.

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# Purim 2004



## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

**Barbara Collier**

**Lydia Radovich**

**Michael Sporn and Mark Govman**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



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# Donations

## *AIDS Fund Donation*

### **Susan Simpson**

- in memory of David Magennis.

### **Sam Thal**

- in honor of Michael Chertok and his AIDS Lifecycle ride.

## *General Fund*

### **Anonymous.**

### **Stephen and Patricia Ashley**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter**

- in honor of Alan Foss.  
- in honor of Mark Gershman.

### **Geoff Benjamin and Craig Persiko**

- in honor of Justyn Lezin and Kim Haveson's wedding, and all the congregants who got married.

### **Allan Berenstein**

- in memory of his friend, Pat Hatlen.  
- in memory of his grandfather, Max Radetsky.

### **Kevin, Rebecca, Sophia, Molly and Eva Bernstein**

- in honor of the wedding of Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond.

### **G'dali Braverman.**

### **Phil Charney**

- in memory of Barbara Frank.

### **Robert Cohen**

- in memory of Doug Porter.

### **Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**

- in memory of Seymour Cooper.

### **The Ritual Committee**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman**

- mazel tov to all of the newlyweds.

### **Daniel Fenton**

- in honor of Randy Weiss.

### **Paul Fishman and Michael Kurokawa**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Jonathan Funk**

- in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

### **Simon Glinsky.**

### **Neil Hart and David Wasserman**

- in memory of Molly Golding.  
- in memory of Samuel Feldman.  
- in memory of Nathan Hart.

### **Ira Hirschfield**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Steven Horowitz**

- in memory of Michael W. Lipson and Keith S. Fenton.

### **Cindy Icke**

- in memory of Hyman Icke.

### **Arnie Jackson**

- in memory of his sister, Phyllis Litman.

### **Anna Katz and Joshua Katz**

- in honor of all the recently married couples.

### **Rose Katz**

- in memory of Marvin J. Katz and Lee Cooper.

### **Sadie Katz**

- in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

### **Avishalom Klammer and Clarence Reese.**

### **Marilyn Langlois**

- in honor of Randy Weiss's 50th birthday.

### **Ron Lezell**

- in honor of Randy Weiss's 50th birthday.  
- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Edward Lopatin**

- in memory of Florence Lopatin.  
- in memory of Paul Anderson and Aaron Lopatin.

### **Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Steven Mazer**

- in honor of Randy Weiss's 50th birthday.  
- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **James Ogren**

- in honor of the life of Pearl Funk.

### **Harold Podgur**

- in memory of Mollie Podgur.  
- in memory of Jerry Granatoor.

### **Mark Reisbaum.**

### **Sharyn Saslafsky**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **J. Donald Seaver, Jr.**

- in honor of Randy Weiss's birthday.

### **Jeffrey Sherman**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

### **Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado**

- in honor of Nol Simonse on his fifth year of service to Sha'ar Zahav.

- in honor of Melanie Kushnir's birthday.  
- in honor of the naming of Daniel Caleb Golinski.  
- in honor of Lucy Bernholz on the publication of her new book.  
- in honor of Eileen Levy on her reappointment as Director of the School of Social Work at SFSU.  
- in honor of Patricia Lin on the publication of her article in *Reform Judaism*.  
- in memory of our congregant, Ziggy Gimmicher.

### **Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe**

- in memory of her mother, Ann Kohout.

### **Dana Vinicoff and Sarah Peterson**

- in memory of Alan Vinicoff.

### **Lonnie Weiss**

- in honor of the City Hall weddings of our members.  
- in memory of Al Tenenbaum.

### **Patricia Wilmot**

- in memory of Ron Wilmot.

### **Michael Wollman**

- in memory of Beatrice Wollman.

### **Ami Zusman**

- in honor of Tsipora Prochovnick's becoming bat mitzvah.  
- in memory of her father, Benjamin Herzl Saperstein.  
- in honor of Joe Hample's acceptance into rabbinic school.  
- in honor of Rachel Timoner's acceptance into rabbinic school.  
- in honor of Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs's new home.  
- in memory of Frank Spiegel.  
- in memory of Ziggy Gimmicher.

## *High Holiday Pledge 5764*

### **Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach.**

### **Alan Foss.**

### **Jason Honig.**

### **Merle Malakoff and Gina Surber.**

## *Inclusive Liturgy Fund*

### **Batya Kalis**

- in memory of Alexander Schwartz.

## *Mishkan Donation*

### **Scott Rutherford.**

### *Music Fund*

#### **Gerald B. Rosenstein**

- in honor of Randy Weiss's 50th birthday.

#### **Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado**

- in memory of Pearl Funk.

#### **Lonnie Weiss**

- in celebration of the life of Vera B. Weiss.  
- in honor of Randy Weiss.

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

#### **Jonathan Funk**

- in memory of Pearl Funk

#### **Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Shuster**

- in appreciation of Rabbi Angel for officiating at their marriage.

#### **Edward Pollock**

- in honor of Jeffrey Davidson's birthday.

#### **Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert**

- in memory of Edward Glogowski and Arnold Weiss.

#### **Lonnie Weiss**

- in loving memory of Vera Blau Weiss and with thanks to Rabbi Camille Shira Angel.

#### **Frank Yellin and Mark Showalter**

- in honor of Rabbi Angel for officiating at their wedding.

### *Read-A-Thon*

#### **Stuart Pollak.**

### *Rebuilding Together*

#### **Lydia Radovich.**

## **Want to be the First to Know The News?**

Then join the Newsletter Committee. We are always looking for people with writing or editing skills who want to know everything that's going on in the synagogue.

For more information, contact Prudence Carter (pruc@sbcglobal.net)

## **Mazel Tov, Newlyweds!**

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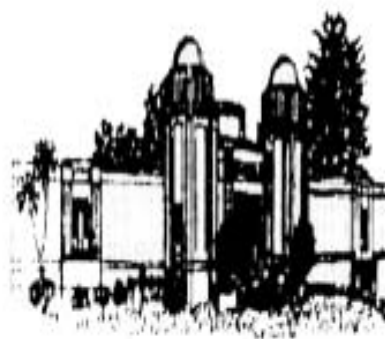
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## Oneg, Flower and Childcare Sponsorships



3/5

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Randy Blaustein** in memory of her grandmother, Molly Blaustein and her friend Michael Moran.

3/12

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Larry Wong** in honor of Joe Hample's acceptance into rabbinic school.

Oneg was sponsored by **Paul Cohen** in memory of his father, Joseph M. Cohen.

Friday night childcare was sponsored by **Deni Gordon** and **Liz Priest** in memory of their brother and brother-in-law Dan Gordon.

3/19

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Elizabeth Katz** and **LeeAnn Thompson** in honor of the marriage of Rabbi Angel and the marriages of all of the members of Sha'ar Zahav.

Friday Oneg was sponsored by **Elizabeth Katz** and **LeeAnn Thompson** in honor of the marriage of Rabbi Angel and the marriages of all of the members of Sha'ar Zahav.

Saturday Oneg was sponsored by the **Zingman-Daniels Family** in memory of Wilbur Daniels.

3/26

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **Ilana Drummond** and **Sharon Dulberg** in loving memory of Louis Adam Dulberg.

Oneg was sponsored in memory of Kafman Klayman.

Friday night childcare was sponsored by **James Carlson** in memory of his partner, Richard Roginski.

## Birthdays



- 1 Avner Lapovsky
- 1 David Ramos
- 2 Rena Frantz
- 3 Miriam Trentman
- 3 Sean Hornby-Finch
- 4 Jeffrey Rubin
- 4 Steven Angelides

- 5 Barbara Rinkoff
- 5 Colette Patt
- 5 David Blumberg
- 6 Aaron Buchbinder
- 6 Mercedes Navarro
- 6 Joan Becker
- 7 Malcolm Haar
- 8 Shelley Samuels
- 8 Zoe Kaiser
- 9 Ruth Newstat Dreisbach
- 10 Judy Hogan
- 10 Rabbi Camille Shira Angel
- 12 Benjamin Malakoff
- 12 Kailin Koch
- 12 Kim Haveson-Lezin
- 12 Sophie Navarro
- 13 Alison Jacoby
- 13 Mark Reisbaum
- 14 Judith Metcalf
- 14 Richard Allman
- 15 Arnie Jackson
- 18 Yona Barth-Rogers
- 18 David Stein
- 19 Gary Winter
- 19 Gabriel Oliver-Polsky
- 20 Richard Wilson
- 20 Lillian Schaechner
- 21 Gerald Rosenstein
- 23 Barbara Cymrot
- 25 Ariel Silverstein
- 26 Robert Katz
- 27 Anna Lichtenberg
- 27 Nancy Epstein
- 28 Sherie Koshover
- 28 Richard Gruschka
- 29 Trudi Hauptman
- 30 Aarin-Ivriah Schlosberg
- 30 Mark Gershman

## Anniversaries



- 10 Nina Raff and Annie Winters
- 16 Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann
- 22 Phyllis and George Mintzer
- 23 Denise Gordon and Elizabeth Priest
- 23 Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Karen Segal
- 26 Susan Leff and Brad Post
- 27 Emily Newfield and Rachael Reiley
- 27 Jo-Ellen and David Kaiser
- 28 Geoff Benjamin and Craig Persiko
- 31 Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond

## Naches



**Lucy Bernholz** on the publication of her book, *Creating Philanthropic Capital Markets: The Deliberate Evolution*, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

**Eileen Levy** on her reappointment for another three-year term as Director of the School of Social Work at San Francisco State University.

**Patricia Lin** on the publication of her article "Patricia Yu Chava Esther Lin bat Avraham," in the Spring 2004, volume 32, no. 3 issue of *Reform Judaism*.

**Ali Cannon** for being selected to attend the Rockwood Leadership Training "Art of Leadership for Jewish Social Change Activists" this April. The Rockwood Leadership Program is non-profit organization that promotes social change through leadership training and consulting to progressive non-profits.

**Sandy O'Neill** for being selected and awarded a scholarship as one of 12 scholars who will attend a three-week interdisciplinary seminar titled: "Disability Studies and the Legacies of Eugenics" to be held at the University of Potsdam in July.

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn** on his appointment to the Human Rights Commission of the City and County of San Francisco by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

**Colette Patt** and **Zack Rogow** on the birth of their son, Gabriel Bram Rogow-Patt.

**Ann Daniels** on her new position as the Families for Literacy Coordinator at Second Start, the Oakland Public Library's adult literacy program.

**Andy Fyne** on his promotion to Director of Client Services at the Marin AIDS Project.

**Jeffrey Forman** who will be moving to Manhattan and selling designer jewelry at Bergdorf Goodman.

**Sandy O'Neill** on joining the Community Advisory Board for the Department of Public Health's Targeted Case Management Program.

## Condolences

**Deni Gordon and Liz Priest**, on the death of their brother and brother-in-law, Daniel Gordon.

**Ann Biderman**, on the death of her aunt, Sylvia Prengler.

**Frank Yellin**, on the death of his father-in-law, Arthur Khuen-Kryck.

**Rose Katz**, on the death of her friend, Lee Cooper.

**Sharon Heath and Lisa Katz**, on the death of their brother and brother-in-law, Michael Heath.

**Michael Bettinger**, on the death of his mother, Beatrice Bettinger.

**Lisa Szer**, on the death of her friend, Miriam Keitel.

## Yahrzeits

- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loebel

## Classifieds

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# Synagogue Information

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office@shaarzahav.org (email) • http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

### CSZ Staff

#### Rabbi

Camille Shira Angel (x301)  
• rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

#### Office Manager

Steven Angelides (x304)  
• steven@shaarzahav.org

#### Program Director

Melanie Kushnir (x305)  
• mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

#### Director of Children's and Family Education

Sue Bojdak (x302)  
• educator@shaarzahav.org

#### Kadimah Head Teacher

Phyllis Mintzer

#### Rabbi's Assistant

Gabby Volodarsky (x310)  
• gabby@shaarzahav.org

#### Officers

President, Arthur Slepian  
(415/452-9143)  
cszpres@pacbell.net  
Vice President, Rose Katz  
Vice President, Alex Ingersoll  
Treasurer, Karen Schiller  
Recorder, Drew Parker-Rose

#### Va'ad Members

Lisa Katz (ex officio)  
Marianne Balin  
Barbara Cymrot  
Ron Edelman  
Tony Harris  
Leslie Kane  
Gail Ludwig  
Ron Miguel  
Rachel Timoner  
Marc Wernick

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews

### Committee Chairs

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge  
*Baby Chavurah*, by committee  
*Bequests and Donations*, open  
*Bikkur Cholim*, open  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Building and Grounds*, Beth Sousa  
*Bylaws*, Howard Steiermann  
*Children's Education Board*, Howard Herman  
*Cemetery*, Open  
*Dues*, Tiela Chalmers  
*East Bay Chavurah*, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler  
*Endowment Fund*, David Stein  
*Experiment in Congregational Education*, Dan Bellm  
*Finance*, Karen Schiller  
*Fine Arts*, Barbara Cymrot  
*Fund Development*, Marianne Balin and Tony Harris  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Israel Committee*, Miki Goralsky and Steve Mazer  
*Keshet/Connection*, Kelly Cytron and Geri Kahn  
*Leadership Development*, Diana Buchbinder  
*Library*, Bernard Schertzer  
*Long-Range Planning*, Claudia Bernard and Geoff Benjamin  
*Membership Outreach*, Geoff Benjamin  
*Newsletter*, Prudence Carter  
• pruc@sbcglobal.net  
*Outreach*, Prudence Carter  
*Past Presidents' Council*, David Gellman  
*Personnel*, Jeff Sherman  
*Public Relations*, Marc Wernick  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Ora Prochovnick  
*Ritual*, Steve Weitz  
*Social Action*, Susan Lubeck and Sara Haber  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman  
*Web and I.T.*, Drew Parker-Rose

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

## Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely and generous way to commemorate a special occasion. Please call the CSZ office for more information.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <i>Iyar 9</i>
<p><b>March Deadline: Monday, May 3, 5pm</b></p> <p><b>Articles</b></p> <p>Please submit your articles as a Word attachment via email to: pruc@sbcglobal.net. <i>No late submissions will be accepted.</i></p> <p><b>Advertising</b></p> <p>To place a display or classified ad, call the office.</p>						
<b>2</b> 10	<b>3</b> 11	<b>4</b> 12	<b>5</b> 13	<b>6</b> 14	<b>7</b> 15	<b>8</b> 16
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	JGF Office Deadline 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Jewish Art with Alan Foss	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Queer Torah Study Project	4 pm Midweek Kadimah 5 pm Most Holy Redeemer 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm The Keys to Effective Job Transition	6:30 pm Shabbat Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service led by Steve Weitz and Ruth Rainero	9 am Torah Study 9:30 pm Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Larry Best 6:30 pm Bisexual Panel
<b>9</b> 17	<b>10</b> 18	<b>11</b> 19	<b>12</b> 20	<b>13</b> 21	<b>14</b> 22	<b>15</b> 23
Lag Ba'Omer 10 am Baby Chavurah 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Jewish Art with Alan Foss	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Queer Torah Study Project	4 pm Midweek Kadimah 5 pm Most Holy Redeemer 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Jews and the News	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm Va'ad meeting	6:15 pm Family Shabbat dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat services led by Rabbi Angel and Lyssa Friedman, drash by Rabbi Ted Alexander	9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Mah Jongg Madness
<b>16</b> 24	<b>17</b> 25	<b>18</b> 26	<b>19</b> 27	<b>20</b> 28	<b>21</b> 29	<b>22</b> 30
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Jewish Art with Alan Foss 7 pm Keshet meeting	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Queer Torah Study Project	4 pm Midweek Kadimah 5 pm Most Holy Redeemer 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm <i>Let's Get Real</i> community viewing	12 pm Talmud for Busy People 7:30 pm Shabbat Service led by Kabbalat Shabbat Ensemble, Rabbi Angel and Daniel Belm	9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Joe Hample and Alapai Michels 11:30 am Kadimah End of Year celebration
<b>23</b> <i>Sivan 1</i>	<b>24</b> 2	<b>25</b> 3	<b>26</b> 4	<b>27</b> 5	<b>28</b> 6	<b>29</b> 7
3 pm Annual Congregational Meeting 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm CEB meeting 7 pm Jewish Art with Alan Foss	Erev Shavuot 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7 pm Queer Torah Study Project	Shavuot 5 pm Most Holy Redeemer 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm Ritual Committee	7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9 am Torah Study 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel
<b>30</b> 8	<b>31</b> 9					
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	Memorial Day Office closed					